

Section 5: Mitigation Implementing Actions

The **implementing actions** are a listing of activities that the county agencies and citizens have proposed and agreed upon as those if implemented will reduce the risk in the wildland/urban interface.

- ❑ **Existing actions** - are activities that are currently in progress.
- ❑ **Short-term actions** - are activities that county agencies may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years.
- ❑ **Long-term actions** - may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.
- ❑ **Ongoing actions** – actions that have, or will begin as part of the mitigation process that will be ongoing over the course of the five-year planning window.

Existing Implementing Actions

1. Revision of the Custer County Emergency Operations Plan.

Responsible Individual: Jim Alexander

Due Date: January 2004

Resources: Assistance from a RC&D Grant awarded to the Northeast Emergency Management Council

2. Installation of static water supply tanks in Stanley.

Responsible Individual: Andy Gunderson

Due Date:

Resources: Fire District Funding

3. SNRA Red Tree Reduction Project.

Responsible Individual: Sawtooth National Forest

Due Date:

Resources: Forest Service Funding

4. Fuel Reduction Projects in the Iron Creek, Crooked Creek, Cow Camp, Basin Creek, Fisher Creek, and Buckhorn Subdivisions. Project includes thinning, removal and replanting of dead lodgepole pine.

Responsible Individual: Homeowners Associations

Due Date:

Resources: Community Grants through Sawtooth National Forest

5. Rural Addressing of Custer County.

Responsible Individual: Chris James

Due Date: December 2004

Resources: RC&D Managed BLM Grant

6. Mechanical Fuel Reduction in the areas between the Yankee Fork Ranger District and the North East Stanley District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Responsible Individual: John Fowler
Due Date: Begin Fall 2004
Resources: Salmon-Challis Forest Service Funding

7. Procurement of new fire apparatus in South and North Custer Fire Districts.

Responsible Individual: District Fire Chiefs
Due Date: Summer 2004
Resources: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Short Term Actions

Responsible Individual: Custer County Wildland/Urban Interface Advisory Committee
Due Date: TBD
Resources: TBD

Develop Partnerships to improve wildland/urban interface fire mitigation:

1. Establish subcommittees to investigate and lead the implementation of mitigation projects.
2. Identify all organizations within Custer County that have programs or interests in wildland/urban interface fire mitigation including private business and other joint planning groups and investigate if common issues are being addressed. Invite them to assist in the implementation mitigation projects.
3. Develop, approve and promote Fire Protection Agreements and partnerships to clarify roles and responsibilities and to provide for fire mitigation activities and suppression preparedness.
4. Develop partnerships with Water Districts to improve the water storage facilities and delivery capabilities in development within and outside of Fire Protection Districts.
5. Integrate requirements for water drafting into Annual Operating Plans developed between the Fire Districts and the Federal Agencies.

Education and Training:

1. Provide training for Advisory Committee members on current and developing issues related to the wildland/urban interface fire hazards loss reduction field.
2. Develop a brochure that addresses fire and relating watershed issues in the wildland/urban interface that can be used by the general public and private businesses.
3. Encourage the development of unifying organizations to ensure communications and dissemination of the wildland/urban interface mitigation information such as planned programs and results from mitigation actions.
4. Develop the capability to apply for grant funding for the implementation of mitigation actions through training of grant writers and the monitoring of available grant opportunities.
5. Conduct joint training and exercises between the Fire Districts, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and SNRA to improve communications and coordination during fire suppression.
6. Provide public education of the need to improve water storage and distribution capacity within the County including improved mapping of existing water storage.

7. Improve knowledge of causes and effects of landslides resulting from wildfires including hazards vulnerabilities, and risks to life and property in hazard prone areas.
8. Enhance outreach and education programs aimed at interface fire hazards through cooperation with existing programs within the Forest Service, BLM, and State Department of Lands.

Data Collection:

1. Working within the partnerships created above, gather information and propose the development of building codes and a permit process to ensure that defensible space has been properly planned for in new construction.
2. As part of the Rural Addressing Project, identify critical facilities, such as wireless communications repeaters and bridges used for evacuation, within the interface areas at risk from wildfire events.
3. Assess bridges and roadways for their ability to support fire apparatus ingress and egress.
4. Map and evaluate the landslide prone areas of the county for possible land movements.

Specific Implementing Actions Projects:

1. Implement Section 7 of the Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan through Plan adoption and Advisory Committee establishment.
2. Implement re-vegetation programs in landslide areas affected by previous wildfires.
3. Develop and disseminate maps showing the fire hazard to help in the education and preparedness of the community. Use the GIS layers developed as part of the Rural Addressing Project.
4. Complete the Rural Addressing Project.
5. Improve fire protection ratings in Stanley through the construction of a new fire station and improvements in water storage and distribution.
6. Improve fire protection ratings in Mackay and the South Custer Fire District through the construction of a new fire station and improvements in the water storage and delivery infrastructure.
7. Continue to assist homeowner associations to apply for grants for the purposes of reducing fuel loading and improvements in fire protection infrastructure.
8. Conduct workshops for public and private sector organizations to raise awareness of mitigation activities and programs.
9. Place the Custer County Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan on the County Web Site.
10. Implement the SNRA Community Evacuation Plan.
11. Develop Evacuation Plans for sites along the Custer Motorway Adventure Road including the historical sites along the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River.

Long Term and Ongoing Actions

Responsible Individual: Custer County Wildland/Urban Interface Advisory Committee

Due Date: TBD

Resources: TBD

Establish Partnerships:

1. Coordinate the maintenance of emergency transportation routes through communications with the County Interagency Transportation Working Group and neighboring jurisdictions.
2. Work with community planning organizations and other neighborhood groups to establish Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).
3. Develop Quick Response Units for medical response in sparsely populated areas.

4. Develop Memoranda of Understanding with existing Emergency Medical Services in the County to increase coverage.

Funding Needs/Support:

1. Purchase and equip a mobile command unit to improve emergency response communications between public agencies, response entities, and the County Emergency Operations Center.
2. Hire a County Fire Prevention Officer to oversee public education programs.
3. Develop a structured Fire Prevention Education Program based on the community hazards.
4. Develop and equipment additional Emergency Medical Services Organizations in areas not covered.

Education and Training

1. Educate private property owners on limitations of physical infrastructure and dangers associated with them following wildfire events.
2. Develop a process to encourage private property owners to upgrade their bridges and roadways to support ingress and egress of fire apparatus.
3. Encourage individual and family preparedness through public education projects such as safety fairs and fire prevention month.
4. Develop or enhance existing outreach materials to include focus on protecting natural ecosystems and watersheds as a mitigation activity.
5. Improve training for existing Emergency Medical Services.

Data Collection:

1. Conduct risk analysis incorporating data and hazard mapping using GIS technology to identify vulnerable sites and to further assist in the prioritization of mitigation activities.
2. Identify watersheds and develop a watershed protection program.

Specific Implementation Projects:

1. Employ mechanical thinning and prescribe burning in Red Tree Areas.
2. Clear trimmings, trees, brush, and other debris completely from sites when performing routine maintenance and landscaping to reduce fire risk
3. Expand Fire Districts to provide fire protection to residences within the County.

Ongoing Actions:

1. Encourage single-family residences to have fire plans and practice evacuation routes.
2. Encourage fire inspections in residential areas by fire departments to increase awareness and establish relationships between homeowners and firefighters.
3. Continue the development of adult and child education programs and incorporate them into the public libraries, community service groups, the media, and other civic forums.
4. Continue to update and improve the SNRA Community Evacuation Plan.
5. Improve Fire District capabilities through an aggressive program focusing on resources acquisition, training, and coordination.